

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6614

BILL NUMBER: SB 332

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 17, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Feb 8, 2005

SUBJECT: Pledge of Allegiance, Flags, and Moment Of Silence.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Ruppel

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill has the following provisions:

(1) The bill requires a United States flag to be displayed in each classroom of a school corporation. The bill requires a school corporation to provide a daily opportunity for students to voluntarily recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The bill provides an exemption for students who choose (or whose parents choose for them) not to participate in the Pledge. The bill requires a school corporation to establish a daily moment of silence in each classroom or on school grounds. The bill repeals a law allowing an optional brief period of silent prayer or meditation.

(2) The bill requires the Attorney General to defend a school corporation in a civil suit based on an act authorized under these provisions.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* (2) The bill would require the Attorney General to defend all suits that involved a school corporation over the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the allowance of a daily moment of silence on school grounds. The impact to state expenditures under this provision is unknown and would depend on the number of lawsuits filed.

Background: As of November 4, 2004, the Office of the Attorney General had 295 employees (262 full-time, 18 intermittent, 10 on leave, 4 temporary, and one part-time.)

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (1) *Summary:* School corporations would be required to purchase enough United States flags to be displayed in each classroom of a school. Any additional expenditure would depend on whether a school corporation currently has sufficient flags to comply with the requirement of the bill.

Background: There are currently 294 school corporations in Indiana, with approximately 2,000 public schools.

Based on a small sample of flag retailers, poly-cotton classroom-size American flags can be purchased for \$2.25 to \$6.50 each depending on order quantities. Additionally, classroom flag holders can be purchased individually from \$1.50 to \$8.00, depending on the construction quality.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Office of the Attorney General.

Local Agencies Affected: School corporations.

Information Sources: Anyflag.com; Tidmoreflags.com; Martin's Flag Company; CVS Systems Inc; *HRM Detail Staffing Report Position and Employee Totals, November 4, 2004.*

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